

The Original Pioneer of the Great Army of Western Drummers. I wonder how many of the great army of valiant and chivalrous commercial travelers who make the State of Illinois their battle-field of trade and racket could give a correct answer if asked who was historically the first "drummer" of their peculiar order to operate in this Commonwealth? The question would doubtless be asked to all of them, therefore I will answer it for their edification.

During the sixteenth and the chief portion of the seventeenth centuries the Indians and the French had it all their own way in what was then known as the Illinois country. The Indians were famous hunters and for the most part sharp traders, and the latter, because of all the furs and hides the French had to sell, exchanging for their dazzling trinkets, cheap clothing, fire-arms, ammunition, bad whiskey and such-like commodities. The traders made a good thing out of the operation, but the Indians apparently enjoyed being cheated.

In time a sharp competition sprang up between two rival trading interests, both composed of Frenchmen, one having his headquarters at Peoria and the other at St. Louis, the former shipping his furs to Montreal for a market and the latter to New Orleans. Two enterprising brothers named Chouteau rose to the heads of the principal fur-trading firm at St. Louis, who had thriven and grown rich in the Upper Mississippi and Missouri Indian traffic, and in 1772 determined to extend their operations into the Illinois country.

They had in their employ a shrewd, energetic young man named Medore Jennette who was acquainted with the lingo of the Indian tribes as he was with his native French. They dispatched this young man to the Indian settlements of Southern Illinois and in the Illinois River Valley to "work up the trade" and he did it with a degree of alacrity and success that fairly made the heads of the old-established Peoria rivals of the Chouteaus swim. He traversed the country almost constantly for several years, visiting and making himself agreeable to all the various Indian villages and camps, soiling their trade and obtaining it. He became a great favorite among the Indians, and by and by, when he got tired of his roving life, fell in love with the prettiest and brightest maiden of the Pottawatomies, married her "like a little man," and settled down and went into the fur-trading business on his own hook in a Pottawatomie village located at the point where the Fox River empties into the Illinois, near the City of Ottawa now lies. He died a rich man, and left a large family of children. His St. Louis employers gave him the credit of having contributed largely to their trade and their wealth, but their Peoria rivals never would forgive him for the serious encroachments he made upon their trading monopoly in the Illinois River Valley. One of Medore Jennette's sons—half Frenchman, half Indian—still lives, residing on a farm in what is known as the "American Bottom" in southeastern Illinois. He is nearly one hundred years old, and is surrounded by sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters—a veritable patriarch. His hair, once black as a raven's feathers, is now as white as snow.

Medore Jennette was the original pioneer of the Illinois commercial travelers, now so numerous and festive, and if his grave is discovered in the woods buried near Ottawa, his successors should rear over it a monument in honor of one who in his business life was a marked illustration of the old Casparian saying, "Fundi vici"—Governor Andrew Shuman, in Chicago Tribune.

WAR AND BULL-DOGS. How the Battle-Field is Used in Making Truly Valiant Men. There is a good deal to be said against war. I am not prepared to maintain that that war did not bring with it disadvantages, but there can be no doubt that for the noblest work of nature—the making of men—it was a splendid manufactory. It taught men courage, it trained them in promptness and determination in strength of brain and strength of hand. From their stern lessons they learned fortitude in suffering, coolness in danger, cheerfulness under reverses, Chivalry, reverence and loyalty are the beautiful children of ugly war. But, above all gifts, war gives the grandest to men was staunchness. It first taught men to be true to one another; to be true to their duty, true to their post; to be in all things faithful, even unto death. The martyrs that died at the stake; the explorers that fought with nature and opened up the world for us; the reformers who were hounded by something more than talk in those days) who won for us our liberties; the men who gave their lives to science and art, when science and art brought not, as now, fame and fortune, but shame and penury—they sprang from the loins of the rugged men who had learned on a grim battle-field, to laugh at pain and death, who had had it hammered into them with many a hard blow, that the whole duty of a man in this world is to be true to his trust and fear not. Such men could never have been the sons of hucksters and chatterers. Do you remember the story of the Viking who had been converted to Christianity and who, just as they were about, with much joy, to baptize him, paused and asked: "But what if this, as you tell me, is the only way to the true Valhalla—what has become of my comrades, my friends who are dead?" The priest, confused, replied there could be no doubt those unfortunate folk had gone to a place they would rather not mention. "Then," said the old warrior, stepping back, "I will not be baptized. I will go along with my own people." He had lived with them, fought beside them; they were his people. He would stand by them to the end—of eternity. Most assuredly a very shocking old Viking. But I think it might be worth while giving up our civilization and our culture to get back to the days when they made men like that. Your average modern man would that a mess his friends had got into—Tinsley's Magazine.

—A new railroad in Wisconsin is called "the Waukesha, Pewaukee, Oconomowoc & Eastern."

TWO VALENTINES.

Love, at your door young Cupid stands And knocks for you to come; The frost is in his feet and hair, His lips with cold are numb. Grant him admittance, sweetheart mine, And by your cheering fire, His lips shall loosen as with wine And speak forth my desire. He left me not an hour ago, And when the rascal went Barefooted out into the snow I asked him whither he went. Quoth he: "To her whose face is like A garden full of flowers, To her whose smiles like sunlight strike Across the winter hours. No more he said, no need of more Had I to know, I knew His path lay straight into your door— That face belongs to you, And by your cheering fire Give her this When your face shall see, And on his lips I set a kiss. A Valentine from me." —Frank Dempster Sherman, in Century.

THE TWO VALENTINES.

Good Mission the One Sent Performed, No Thanks to Sam.

OTHER, what a r h y m e s t o lamb!" "Dam!" cried out a boy by the window. "Sam, stop." "There are two rhymes for you, Nelly," laughed Mrs. Damon. "But they won't do!" pouted Nelly. "I want to write a valentine; I couldn't put either in."

"To Laura Lamb; for a cent," said the boy, writing. "No, Sam, if you tell, I'll—"

"O-o-o! What?" asked Sam, affecting terror. "I don't know yet; but something really dreadful."

Then Nelly, reflecting she had betrayed herself unconsciously for Sam when she first spoke, so she did not see him—thought it was the part of wisdom to take that bad boy into her confidence, and put him "on honor." Besides, Sam wrote a beautiful, copper-plate, "business hand," which, plenty of other poets write, "quite unamateuristic, legible, and calculated to defy any detection, simply because it was like so many other people's."

"Now, Sam," she went on, "I should like to have you help me, and I'm sure you won't betray a secret so I'll tell you what I want to write a valentine to Laura, and I particularly don't want her to know where it comes from. She hoaxed me awfully two years ago, and I want to pay her off."

"Just like a girl, exactly! But what did you want to write two years for?" "Nelly has got a little York-shire pig, and she wants to give it to Sam. Damon, dryly.

"What's that, mamma?" "Keep a stun in the pork six year, turn 'em out; then leave 'em out!" Sam roared.

"Now you've got it, Nell. Mother, you're awful sharp when you set out to be!" "It isn't that at all!" said aggrieved Nelly. "It's because I hadn't a good chance, and, besides, if I'd done it the next year she would have guessed right away."

"Well, supposing that's all square, why won't you tell me what you want to write now, just at New Year's, when you can't see it for six weeks?" "Why, you see I'm going to send it to Jenny Davray—she's gone to Italy for the winter—and have her post it there, for then Laura will never guess it came from me, and she'll be thankful to me. I've got some foreign post paper and envelopes, and you write such a lovely hand."

Sam was flattered; consented to copy the missive, and promised to keep the secret.

But Nelly had not told him or her mother every thing. She had been Laura Lamb's intimate friend in their school-days, and though they had not seen so much of each other since Mr. Damon died and his family went back to Traverse to the old Damon homestead, yet there was still an intimacy, an exchange of news, and letters, and of course, much mutual confidence. Now, Nelly knew very well that Laura had taken a great deal of interest during the last year in a certain youth who had come to Swanfield to study law in Judge Lamb's office.

Jack Davenport was a manly, handsome fellow, with a great dislike to his intended profession, and an equally great desire to become an artist. But bright, sweet young creature, full of sentiment, a romantic, Jack's father, impressed on his nature, before she was so beautiful; he thought he fell in love with her.

Nelly had heard all about the tender tokens, the flowers, the volumes of poetry, the bits of ornamentation, even the tiny turquoise ring wrought as a forget-me-not; but she did not know, for Laura had some reticence, that although Jack had taken many of a lover's privileges, he had never in good set terms asked Laura to marry him. But, indeed, Laura thought that he meant as much. Perhaps, had things been different, and this day, when with Judge Lamb, and study his future with Judge Lamb, he would have drifted into matrimony. Perhaps not, but propriety does wonders.

However, my dear girls, it is safest, and "not to put too fine a point upon it," for Laura, however devoted he may be, demonstrate his affection in Jack's fashion. Poor little Laura had given her girlish heart entirely to this young seafarer, when, like others of his sort, "he loved and he rode away." You see he had inherited half a million, had got his "chickens" and "pigeons" and "lamb," and in the full sense of power, pleasure and ability at last to follow out his life's desire, Laura was quite brushed out of his recollection. He had a superb studio in Rome now, had his valet, his horses, his fine lodgings, was lionized by the artists, who smiled at his paintings but enjoyed his dinners; in fact, he was no longer lazy Jack Davenport, but "John Davenport, the American artist." Laura, law, Swanfield were all dim shadows; he did not even sketch her face any more; he was spending all the day at a massive blonde German beauty, a sort of splendid Glumdaelch who could have strangled Laura with two fingers, or tossed her into the Tiber like a dead kitten.

Laura did not know all this; she was hurt and surprised that Jack did not write her, but out of her kind heart and abundant affection she made excuses for him; and out of her remains of self-respect forbore to write first; so she heard nothing, nor would she have been edified had she heard all; it was a case where "ignorance is bliss."

Nor did Nelly know it either, or perhaps she would have forgiven her small shortcomings, even had she known. Naturally, she took Laura's view of the case; and, though she suspected letters were at least infrequent between the pair, she thought if they were the valentine would be still more of a surprise to Laura and hoax her more successfully.

So in due time the verses were concocted. It takes very little talent to write such rhymes, and Mrs. Damon

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And dirt and dew If they're a 'tightly scholar. I've left the West; I like this best. I'll stay for good and all, Missa. But try my dear, I'll try my dear, To make you one short call, Missa.

"But now I'm going out to dine And I can only stop to sign Myself your former Valentine."

"There," exclaimed Jack, eyeing his fair copy with proud satisfaction. "Now that's something like what a fellow would write. Any body'd know 't other one was a girl's doin's. Now for the seal; it must be done up before Nell gets back. And with care and pains, four various experiments, a neat round patch of azure wax was impressed with the big D."

Nelly was much disgusted when she came back to find her valentine irretrievably fastened. "What did you seal it for, Sam?" she inquired, angrily; "I wanted to see how it looked; you couldn't have told Laura 't you'd never seen the thing, and now you can."

"That's so," answered mollified Nelly, and Sam chuckled to think how true such an answer would be, in spirit as well as letter. At Nell's direction he wrote the address and inclosed the note to Jenny Davray, asking her to post it from Rome, where she would be when the double epistle reached her.

In due time the verses returned to Laura; her heart beat wildly as she perceived the foreign stamp, the Roman postmark; she was heartily thankful to Jenny Davray, asking her to post it from Rome, where she would be when the double epistle reached her.

She took it at once to her room and, locking her door, sat down by the window and carefully slit the envelope. Judge of her consternation! She turned to the envelope and inspected that once more; she recognized the name so well that great D that filled the azure round of the seal. What could this mean? was it a deliberate insult? or had he so lost his manners, his feeling, by associating with a rough herd of artists that he took this way to let her know he cared for her no longer?

She had read in novels, often, how young men coming into the possession of money became dissipated; could Jack, her Jack, have taken too much wine and under its degrading influence sent her this disgusting, cruel set of rhymes? Laura's face flamed with anger; her cheeks grew hot, her little hand and cried bitter, hot tears; cried for her past and her future. She went down to dinner with very red eyes indeed, and told her father that she had a headache.

Indeed she had; and a headache too. She was glad now that she had lost her letter, for she had not time to read it. She dropped off her finger while she was pulling water-lilies out of Swan lake, and she had cried over the loss sadly, but now she rejoiced in it; she could have sent that back in a letter, she would have been obliged to return it, but the little books, the bits of bracelet, the bronze frog that he stamped on her pretty desk, the china turtle that lifted its square-figured shell to contain her few trinkets, she could not send these to Rome! She put them all into an old starch-box and hid them far away under the eaves of the garret; a tiny damsel, who she had hidden in the streets of Traverse, little knew what he had done. Nelly waited in vain for Jack's confidence with regard to "that sweet, sweet valentine, from you know who?" as she had fully expected the letter to run; but Laura gave no sign.

Sam grinned to himself at her hearing her express indignance at the unheard-of silence and muttered to himself: "I guess not! That ain't the sort of a valentine to tell of, nor much."

Yet, after all, Sam, like the rest of us, was not a mere grubber in the dark. He brightened up results far from his own expectation, above his own understanding even, though he went all his days in ignorance thereof; conscious only of a slight vexation, whenever he thought of the matter, as he did once or twice after Christmas. I guess I'll use the blue stick. Blue's true love."

"Fiddliestick!" said scornful Sam. "Well, gimme your verses and the paper and I'll take 'em into the Jilly and copy 'em off."

"I'm going to seal them with my new seal that's got an old English D on it," said Nelly. "Laura never saw that, nor my box with the colored wax, and I forgot to tell her about it when I wrote after Christmas. I guess I'll use the blue stick. Blue's true love."

"Fiddliestick!" said scornful Sam. "Well, gimme your verses and the paper and I'll take 'em into the Jilly and copy 'em off."

"I'm going over to Quantuck with mother now, so you'd best be dashed!" "Bye-bye," ejaculated Sam, hurrying into the library and unfolding Nelly's paper, where he read:

"Sweet Laura! In these laurel bowers I pine for Swanfield's fragrant flowers. Can I forget these blissed days? That shine so bright through Memory's haze?"

"Ah, not when daylight floods the sky And stars are vanishing on high, I think of thee, my star of dawn, Amid thy roses on the lawn."

"And when at evening in the west The sun is sinking in his rest, My heart goes longing o'er the sea, On wings of love to home and thee."

"Sweeter than any rose thou art, Have I a place within thy heart? Ah, Laura! 'thou art safe in mine. I'm still thy faithful Valentine!"

"Well, I'm jiggered!" roared Sam. "If that isn't the greatest stuff! Just like girls. Nell! I say, Nell!"

Nelly did not answer. Sleight bells tingled about her ears, she had taken a sudden fancy for a cooking school, and henceforth old Hannah was superseded in half her work, and the judge regaled with such dainty dishes that he waxed fat and smiling as never before.

Laura's pale roses blushed warmly again; she began to laugh inwardly; she was so young that she could recover and be thankful.

And the recovery was confirmed by the appearance in Swanfield of a new minister, not too young, but good, kind and a thorough gentleman. At the time Mr. Vernon saw Laura Lamb, he was struck by her likeness to the wife he had lost three years before; this is an infallible symptom in widowers; I seem to point out their duty, if not their pleasure. And Laura liked Mr. Vernon at first sight; she liked him better every day, and she really put up with the question, having fully made up her mind, she acknowledged that she loved him! So she did, and discovered that after all she had not really loved Jack Davenport, certainly not enough to have married him. She learned before she heard of Jack's marriage, and with a careless, steady voice read out the announcement to her husband.

"I used to know them both; and oh Paul, I did have such a flirtation with Jack!" she said, with a laugh.

"Open confession is good for the soul here," answered Mr. Vernon, smiling. "But it wasn't Sam Damon's doing, all this, it was I did cause on that bad boy's valentine!—Rosa Terry Cooke, it is N. Y. Independent."

ADDRESS TO THE NATION.

Ex-Speaker Carlisle, on Behalf of the Democracy.

Address to the Nation, Setting Forth the Position of the Minority in the House of Representatives in the Recent Fight.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—An address to the country explaining the position of the Democratic members of the House has been prepared by ex-Speaker Carlisle, and will be signed by all the minority members to-day. The address in its full length follows:

The present situation in the House of Representatives is so anomalous, and the unprecedented decisions of the Speaker are so gross an invasion of the integrity of our legislation, that we consider it our duty to submit a brief statement of the facts in order that the people may be fully informed. We have taken the most careful and deliberate consideration of the facts, and our conclusions are as follows:

The House of Representatives met on the second day of December, 1890, and immediately organized by the election of a Speaker and other officers. On the same day by a resolution of the House, the Speaker was authorized to appoint a committee to inquire into the conduct of the last preceding House and the rules of the last preceding House were referred to that committee. The committee, consisting of the Speaker himself and four other members, was appointed on the fifth day of December, and on the ninth it made a report authorizing the Speaker to appoint all the other committees and defining their jurisdiction. The committee on elections, to which was referred all cases involving the rights of members to their seats, was appointed on the ninth day of December. Although nearly two months have elapsed since the committee on rules was appointed, it has made no report upon the matters referred to it except the partial one made on the ninth of December, and consequently the House has been obliged to conduct its business without any rules or system, except the general parliamentary law, as applied by the Speaker. There have been no caucuses, no order of business, no fixed time to receive reports from committees, no regular order of resolutions, and in fact no regular methods whatever in the proceedings of the House.

The American House of Representatives has been all this time, and still is, so far as its government is concerned, in precisely the same condition as a political convention in which the chairman and his partisans absolutely control all the proceedings. No measure can get before the House for consideration unless the Speaker chooses to allow it to be presented, and members have no means of knowing what bills are to be considered or called upon to discuss or decide. This is the first time in our history that a legislative assembly, or a body of representatives, has attempted to transact business for any considerable period without a regular code of rules prescribing the order of its proceedings, and the Speaker has refused to enforce the rules resulting from such an attempt have been forebodingly illustrated in the present instance.

The Speaker has repeatedly refused to entertain parliamentary motions that have been presented, and has repeatedly refused to entertain parliamentary motions that have been presented, and has repeatedly refused to entertain parliamentary motions that have been presented.

On Wednesday, January 29, the committee on elections called up a contested-election case, the Democrats offering to contest the seat of the Speaker, and the Democrats offering to contest the seat of the Speaker, and the Democrats offering to contest the seat of the Speaker.

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LEGERDEMAIN EXPOSED.

Facts That Seem Improbable, But Can Easily Be Accomplished.

It has always been a wonder to the uninitiated how the many sleight-of-hand tricks which are performed nightly by the different magicians in this town are accomplished. To the inexperienced the tricks seem hard, but any body can do many of them provided they have the necessary paraphernalia. For instance, the trick of moving a red handkerchief from one bottle to another, a neat and ingenious illusion, can be accomplished by the aid of threads and holes in the bottles, one being pulled out as the other is pulled in.

The trick of changing water in a bottle to ink and the ink to water can be done by a twelve-year-old boy. This is how it is done: The globe, which appears to be full of ink, is in reality full of water, but it is double. The outer globe is part of the stand, which is hollow, while the inner globe is fitted with a cap of black silk ready to be pulled down through the hollow center of the table at a given signal, exposing what is apparently only a large glass globe of water, but which is in reality two. The change from water to ink is effected by pulling up between the neck of a diamond (drab) wrapped up in a paper which is punctured with holes, and quietly dropping it in the globe while throwing the handkerchief over it. Those who do not understand tricks would not appreciate the importance of a little thing you can do when down among the audience. In wrapping up a bottle with the handkerchief you can give it a shake. The shake is the explanation of the trick—it scatters the dye in the water and makes it appear as ink.

It has always been a mystery, even to the most experienced, how magicians accomplish, as to how magicians can tell persons in the audience on what day of the week they were born. Before telling this they always ask their questioners to write down the year of their birth, with the day of the month, in each case he can always give the correct day. This can be accomplished as easy as falling off a log, and this is just exactly how it is done. Without going into elaborate explanations, here is a table:

Table with 4 columns: Day, Month, Year, and Leap Year. It lists dates for various months and years, such as January 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., up to December 31st.

Now we wish, we'll say, to find the day of the week on which any certain date fell. We take this figure of the month given above, the last two figures of the date of the year, one-quarter of the same, omitting the remainder if it does not divide evenly by four, and the date of the month. Add all four sums together, divide by seven, and the remainder will tell the day of the week, counting Sunday as 1, Monday as 2, and so on till we reach Friday as 6 and Saturday as 0. Here is an illustration of it. To-day is the 5th of January, 1890—59.

Date of year (last two figures)..... 90
Day of the month..... 5
1/4 of the year (as given above)..... 46
Total..... 151

Divide this by 7, we get 21, with remainder of 1, which is Sunday, as indicated in the table.—N. Y. World.

THE COBRA DI CAPELLO.

Something About the Most Venomous of All Reptiles.

The cobra di capello, Naja Trivirostris, has numerous synonyms in different parts of India. It is sometimes called the spectacled or hooded snake; some are marked with a figure like spectacles; others have a single ocellus on the hood; some have no mark. The cobra is called by the natives of Bengal "gokurak," the latter "beautiful," but they have other vernacular synonyms in different regions. A common general native term is kala nag or kala samp. There are many varieties, both as to pattern on the hood and general coloration, and the cobra is sometimes being of different degrees of activity or docility; but the probability is that in these respects they are all much the same, any difference being due to temporary or individual causes.

The cobras are all hood